

Causes of World War I

Analyzing Information Charts Have a student volunteer read the chart. Divide students into four groups and assign each group one point from the chart. Have the groups discuss amongst themselves how their points contributed to causing the war. Then have each group present their findings to the class.

English-Language Learners Go through the points with students and clarify any language issues, using the following prompts as a guide:

- **Militarism:** means a focus on the military—it's when military preparedness and military predominance are important to a country. Ask students for examples of things a country could build up in its military (*i.e. more troops, more weapons, more ships, etc.*)
- **Alliances:** mean partnerships. Ask students why countries felt more protected by forming alliances (*They were following the theory that there's strength in numbers.*)
- **Imperialism:** simply, building an empire by taking over other countries. Full definition: the policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political influence over other nations. Explain that none of the countries could grow without taking over other existing countries, and no country wanted to be conquered.
- **Nationalism:** Explain that part of the reason no country wanted to be conquered is because people loved their countries. They were proud of where they lived. Ask students for examples of things of which they are proud about their country (*i.e. freedom of speech, etc.*) Explain that the pride they feel is nationalism.

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

MILITARISM

- European nations engage in a massive military buildup.

ALLIANCES

- European countries form partnerships to protect themselves.

IMPERIALISM

- Rival empires seek to keep power.

NATIONALISM

- People feel loyalty and devotion to their country or culture.